PTO/SB/21 (09-04) Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Application Number 09/937.942 Filing Date TRANSMITTAL 2 October 2001 heggived First Named Inventor **FORM** JOHNSON, Royce Art Unit Examiner Name MAR 2 0 2006 STEPHENS, Jacqueline F. (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing) Attorney Docket Number VAC.483.US Total Number of Pages In This Submission **ENCLOSURES** (Check all that apply) After Allowance Communication to TC Fee Transmittal Form Drawing(s) Appeal Communication to Board Licensing-related Papers Fee Attached of Appeals and Interferences Appeal Communication to TC 1 Petitlon Amendment/Reply (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) Petition to Convert to a Proprietary Information After Final Provisional Application Power of Attorney, Revocation Affidavits/declaration(s) Change of Correspondence Address Status Letter Other Enclosure(s) (please Identify Terminal Disclaimer Extension of Time Request below): Request for Refund Express Abandonment Request CD, Number of CD(s) Information Disclosure Statement Landscape Table on CD Certified Copy of Priority Remarks Document(s) Reply to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1,53 SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT Firm Name Kinetic Concepts, Inc. Signature Printed name Robert W. Mason Date Reg. No. 20 March 2006 42.848 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below: Signature

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the information account of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1460, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date

20 March 2006

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

Robert W. Mason

Typed or printed name